



Is this any way to treat a good landlord?



He was wealthy and owned several acres of rich farmland. Numerous destitute people lived near him. He decided to share. He allowed them to live on his land, occupy his buildings, and benefit from his generosity. They got a sweet deal.

The owner gave fair, openhanded stipulations. They could use his property for any honest endeavors. He asked for only a small percentage of the return. He emphasized two other requisites. First, they were to treat one another kindly. Second, they were to respect and honor him. Considering the value of the lands and the perks, his conditions were minimal.

The landlord periodically visited to see how those lodgers performed. Most acted as if they themselves owned the land. Some unconscionably trashed his property. Other tenants fought with their neighbors. Many disputes ended in kidnappings, rape, and murder. Amazingly, many of the dwellers accused the owner of being unjust. They even used his name to curse one another. Some hardly uttered a sentence that lacked profanity.

That's no way to treat a good landlord, is it? Yet consider this. You probably won't hold the title to your present residence in sixty years. A longer-lived spouse may occupy the place, or an offspring, or a nephew. Chances are you won't. Neither do you pay for the sunshine and rain you receive.

God shows incredible patience with us ungrateful, greedy occupants who mistreat one another— and who curse using his name. I wonder how long it will be before he evicts us.

“When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

Matthew 21:40.

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